



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement in Response to Remarks by Chairman of the UN's al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee, Ambassador César Mayoral

As delivered by Ambassador Julie Finley
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
October 13, 2005

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States warmly welcomes the visit of Ambassador Mayoral, chairman of the United Nations' al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee. As we consider the number of heinous attacks that have been conducted over the past few years – in places as diverse as New York, Bali, Moscow, Cairo, Casablanca, Istanbul, London, and Madrid – we must now draw the sad conclusion that there is no corner of the world that can consider itself safe from terrorism.

Al-Qaida represents a pervasive threat to the participating States and Partner countries, particularly Afghanistan, which has had to break free of the long shadow cast by the Taliban.

Mr. Chairman, it is evident that such an international plague cannot be fought by a handful of countries, no matter how well-intentioned and resourceful they may be. Success can only be achieved through the concerted efforts of all of us, in every corner of the globe.

For that, we applaud the work Ambassador Mayoral and the Sanctions Committee have done. We also support the complementary efforts by the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee, which examines terrorism more broadly than Usama bin Laden, the Taliban and al-Qaida and those associated with them.

Money is the life blood of these organizations. They need it to train recruits, obtain materials, and plan their missions. The work of the Sanctions Committee thus makes it more difficult for terrorists to operate.

However, as Ambassador Mayoral himself has noted, the terrorists have often been able to circumvent the assets freeze by relying on cash couriers and other such systems to channel money. The very nature of money makes targeting such alternative financial systems a daunting task. It is not just like targeting tanks or military aircraft. Money can flow like quicksilver – if you try to shut it off at one source, it can pop up in another.

That is why one country cannot do this alone. Every OSCE participating State, and the Partners as well, must do its share.

Mr. Chairman, in this regard, we welcome the Security Council's adoption of Resolution 1617, which further clarifies the sanctions regime. We strongly support Ambassador Mayoral's closer engagement with key international organizations, such as Interpol and the ICAO. The United States has also made considerable efforts in the past few years to strengthen its cooperation with

other countries on counter-terrorism issues and has helped many countries improve their capacities to fight this threat.

One key example is the upcoming conference on terrorist financing that the U.S. is co-hosting with the OSCE here in Vienna in November. This conference aims to deepen participants' understanding of the many anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing tools now available and the steps needed to implement them.

Only with firm resolve and close cooperation can we hope to successfully thwart terrorists and their supporters.

Thank you.